



Californians Turn in Poachers & Polluters

**CALIFORNIA'S NON-PROFIT, SECRET WITNESS PROGRAM TO HELP STOP
POACHING & POLLUTING**

PO Box 944209, Sacramento CA 94244-2090

CalTIP, Inc., California's non-profit secret witness program to turn in poachers and polluters, is continuing to support the California Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) K9 Program. We are seeking sponsors and donors who are willing to help fund this program and help protect our dwindling wildlife resources.

California's wildlife and habitat continue to be under attack. The introduction of invasive species, environmental degradation and poaching all contribute to it's demise. To compound the problem, the international black market preys on California's natural resources with illegal sales of wildlife and wildlife parts estimated at \$100 million a year, second only to the illegal drug trade.

California has a small force of field game wardens, which is about 200 when fully staffed. Working alone, at all hours of the day and night, wardens' back-up can be hours away. Given these realities, trained police dogs are an invaluable resource for wildlife officers.

Studies have shown that one well trained dog can save 800 personnel hours each year. With scenting capabilities possibly up to a million times stronger than a human's, dogs can easily detect hidden evidence that a human cannot. For instance, a dog can locate a bear gall bladder hidden in a hub cap, an expended rifle cartridge casing on a wooded hillside, or a Quagga mussel on the intake of a boat motor.

Working in concert with DFG, CalTIP strives to have K9 teams positioned throughout the state, ready to assist where needed and available to assist other law enforcement agencies when needed. The K9 teams will work to reduce wildlife crime through public education, media exposure, and patrol presence.

This ambitious program requires hard work, dedication and money. The cost of a trained detection dog and four week K9 academy is approximately \$6,500. The cost for a dual purpose dog, capable of protection, apprehension and detection, will cost about \$9,500, and includes a six week academy. Equipment, veterinary services, training and maintenance costs needed to support each team represent additional costs.

DFG conducted extensive research of other K9 programs across the United States and found that most agencies fund their programs through a non-profit organization, and rely heavily on sponsors and donors. This way, when budgets are cut, the K9 program will remain intact.

Many of the departments related how their fundraising and sponsorship programs have built outstanding community partnerships. CalTIP and DFG are looking forward to building these types of relationships. Through media exposure and public demonstrations, the general public will have the opportunity to learn about the job that DFG dogs and handlers do, the important role that the sponsors serve, and the serious threats that California's wildlife resources face each day.



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Recognizing the importance of this program, CalTIP Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for profit corporation, established a "K9 Account." Contributions made to the CalTIP K9 Account are tax deductible. Individuals and organizations may chose to donate money to the K9 Program as a whole or they may opt to sponsor a specific K9 team. For instance, an abalone conservation group could sponsor a team whose primary focus is working along the coastline, or a deer association in Northern California may choose to sponsor a team whose primary focus is on deer poaching in that area. Sponsors and major donors will periodically receive information and updates regarding the program and specific information regarding their sponsored K9 team.

The Department's goal is to establish eighteen K9 teams throughout the state by June 2008. Six detection teams are scheduled to begin the very first DFG K9 Academy in January 2008. In order to meet the Department's goal, approximately \$80,000 still needs to be raised.

DFG and CalTIP are committed to the success of the K9 Program but it won't happen without help from the public. Private individuals, conservation groups, sporting and civic organizations now have the opportunity to support this truly exciting new program...one that is sure to enhance wildlife law enforcement efforts in California.

If you would like more information about the K9 program please call Lieutenant. Lynette Shimek at (707) 275-8862 or by e-mail; [lshimek @dfg.ca.gov](mailto:lshimek@dfg.ca.gov)

All sponsors and donors will receive a receipt for tax purposes. Charitable contributions may be mailed to:

CalTIP- K9 Program
417 Mace Blvd. Suite J, PMB #125
Davis, CA 95618

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Charlie Moss
President, CalTIP Inc.